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THE

Present Case STATED:

OR,

The OATHS of Allegiance and Supremacy no Badges

OF

SLAVERY.

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FOR HELDER HELDE

HE Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Crown of England having been invaded and broke in upon by the Power of the Court of Rome, in K. Henry the Eight's time all Foreign Power was abolished, and the Antient Legal Supremacy restor'd, and by many Additional Acts Corroborated. But all that was done of that kind, in King Henry the Eight's time, was undone again in Queen Marry's; and therefore in the First year of Queen Elizabeth's Reign, an Act of Parliament was made, Entituled All Ancient Jurisdiction restored to the Crown. A Repeal of divers Statutes, and Reviver of others: and all foreign Power Abolished: Which Act recites, that whereas in the Reign of R. H. 8. divers good Laws were made and Established, as well for the utter extinguishment and putting away of all Usurped and Foreign Powers and Authorities out of this Realm, as also for Restoring and Uniting to the Imperial Crown of this Realm the ancient Jurisdi-Etions, Authorities, Superiorities, and Preheminences to the Samo of Right belonging and appertaining; by reason whereof the Subjects of this Realm were kept in good order, and disburtbened of divers great and intolerable Gharges and Exactions, until such time as all the said good Laws and Statutes by one Act of Parliament made in the First and Second years of the Reigns of King Philip and Queen Mary, were clearly repealed and made void; by reason of which Act of Repeal the Subjects of England were efisoons brought under an Usurped Foreign Power and Authority, and yet remained in that Bondage to their intolerable

table Charges; and then Enacts, that for the Repressing of the said Usurped Foreign Power, and the restoring of the Rights, Jurisdictions and Preheminences appertaining to the Imperial Crown of this Realm, The said Act made in the First and Second years of the said late King Philip and Queen Mary (except as therein is excepted) be repealed, void, and of none effect.

The faid Act of Primo Elizabeth. proceeds, First, to Revive by express words many Statutes that had been made in King Henry the Eight's time, and repealed in Queen Maries; and Secondly, to abolish all foreign Authority in these words; [viz.] And to the intent that all V surped and Foreign Power and Authority Spiritual and Temporal, may for ever be clearly extinguished, and never to be used or obeyed within this Realm, &c. May it please your Highness that it may be Enacted, That no Foreign Prince, Person, Prelate, State, or Po-tentate, Spiritual or Temporal, shall at any time after the last day of this Session of Parliament, use, enjoy, or exercise any manner of Power, Jurisdiction, Superiority, Authority, Preheminence or Priviledge, Spiritual or Ecclesiastical within this Realm, &c. but the same shall be clearly abolished out of this Realm, &c. Any Statute, Custom, &c. to the contrary notwithstanding. Thirdly, the said Act restores in the next Paragraph to the Imperial Crown of this Realm, such Jurisdictions, Priviledges, Superiorities, &c. Spiritual and Ecclesiastical, as by any Spiritual or Ecclesiastical Power or Authority had theretofore been, or might lawfully be exercised or used, &c. Fourthly, the Act impowers the Queen to assign Commissioners to exercise Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction. And Fifthly, For the better observation and maintenance of this Act, Imposes upon Ecclesiastical and Temporal, Officers and Ministers, &c. the Oath, commonly call'd the Oath of Supremacy, which runs thus; (viz.)

The Oath of SUPREMACY:

T A. B. do utterly testify and declare in my Conscience, I that the Queen's Highness is the only Supream Governour of this Realm, and of oll other her Highnes's Dominions and Countries, as well in all Spiritual or Ecclesiastical Things and Causes as Temporal; and that no Foreign Prince. Person, Prelate, State, or Potentate hath or ought to have any Jurisdiction, Power, Superiority, Preheminence or Authority Ecclefiastical or Spiritual within this Realm; And therefore I do utterly renounce and for sake all Foreign Furisdictions, Powers, Superiorities, and Authorities, and. do promise that from henceforth I shall bear Faith and true Allegiance to the Queen's Highness, her Heirs and Lawful Successours; and to my Power shall Assist and Defend all Jurisdictions, Priviledges, Preheminencies and Authorities, Granted or belonging to the Queen's Highness, her Heirs and Successours, or united and annexed to the Imperial Crown of this Realm. So help me God, and by the Contents of this Book.

It cannot but be obvious to to every Impartial pursuer of the Statute, especially if he have the least knowledge of what Condition the Government of this Nation was reduced to by Papal Encroachments and Usurpations. That the Makers of this Law, and the Sence of this Oath, was no other in general, than that the People of this Realm should bear Faith and true Allegiance, even in Matters relating to Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, to the Queen's Highness, her Heirs and Lawful Successours, and not to the Pope or any foreign pretended Jurisdiction.

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What the several 'Jurisdictions, Priviledges, Preheminences and Authorities Granted or belonging to the Queen, her Heirs and Successours, are in particular; and what the ' Jurisdictions, Priviledges, Preheminences and Authorities United and Annexed to the Imperial Crown of this Realm, are in particular, is not material here to be discoursed of; though the several Statutes made in 'King Henry the Eight's time, and King Edward the Sixth's, and revived in Queen. Elizabeth's, will unfold many of them; and clear the distinction, which the OATH makes, betwixt 'Authorities Granted or belonging to the King, and Authorities united and annexed to the Imperial Crown: and Mr. Prynn's Hiftory of the Pope's intolerable Usurpations upon the Liberties of the Kings and Subjects of England and Ireland; together with 'Sir Roger Twisden's Historical Vindication of the Church of England in point of Schism, will in a great measure acquaint the Curious how matters stood with us here, with respect to Church-Government, before the Pope had wrested the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction almost wholly out of the hands of our Kings, our Parliaments and Courts of Justice. In short, those Jurisdictions, &c. are such as the Ancient Laws, Customs, and Usages of the Realm, or latter Acts of Parliament have Created, Given, Limited and Directed.

The Makers of this Law did not defign to impose upon the People of England any new Terms of Allegiance, but to secure the old ones, Exclusive of any Pretences of the Pope or See of Rome.

Nor are there any words in this Oath more strong, more binding to Duty and Allegiance, than are words which the old Oath of Fealty is conceived in; which all men were anciently obliged, and may yet be required to take to the King in the Court-Leet at twelve years of Age; which runs thus; (viz.)

You shall swear that from this day forward you shall be true and Faithful to our Soveraign Lord King James and his Heirs: And faith and truth shall bear of life and limb and terrene Honour, And you shall not know nor hear of any ill or damage intended to him, that you shall not defend. So help you Almighty God.

This is as full and comprehensive, as the Oath of Supremacy; I do promise that I shall bear faith and true Allegiance to the Queen's Highness, her Heirs and Lawful Successors, and to my power shall assist and defend all Jurisdictions, &c. So that the true sense and meaning of the Oath of Supremacy, is this; viz. I will be true and Faithful to our Soveraign Lord the King, his Heirs and Lawful Successors, and will to my power Assist and defend all his Rights, notwithstanding any pretence made by the Pope or any other Foreign Power to excercise Jurisdiction within the Realm, all which Foreign Power I utterly renounce in matters Ecclesiastical as well as Temporal.

The Oath of Allegiance is appointed by the Act of 3 Jac. I. Chap. 4. Entituled, An Act for discovering and repressing of Popish Recusants. It recites the daily experiences that many of his Majesty's Subjects, that adhere in their hearts to the Popish Religion, by the Infection drawn from thence, by the wicked and devillish Counsel of Jesuits, Seminaries, and other like persons dangerous to the Church and State, are so far perverted in the point of their Loyalties and due Allegiance to the King's Majesty, and the Crown of England, as they are ready to entertain and execute any Treasonable Conspiracies and Practices: And for the Better Tryal how his Majesty's Subjects stand affected in point of their Loyalties and due obedience, Enacts that it shall be Lawful for any Bishop in his Diocesse, or any two Justices of the Peace, whereof one to be of the Quorum, within the Limits of their Jurisdiction, out of the Sessions, to require any person of the age of eighteen Tears or above, which shall be conor which shall not have received the Sacrament twice within the Year then next past, or any person passing in or through the Country, unknown, that being examined upon Oath. Shall confess, or not deny him or her self to be a Recusant, and to take the Oath therein after expressed; viz. &c. the Oath of Allegiance.

So that by the Occasion of imposing the Oath, and by the appointing it to be tendred only to Papists or suspected Papists, it is apparent that the Design of the Law-makers was to detect such persons as were perverted, or in danger to be perverted in their Loyalty, by Insection drawn from the Popist Religion.

The form of the Oath makes it yet more evident, being wholly levell'd against any opinion of the Lawfulness of deposing, the King or practising any Treason against him, upon pretence of his being Excommunicated or deprived by the Pope, And against any opinion of the Pope's power to discharge Subjects from their Oaths of Fidelity to their Princes. It runs this; viz.

I A. B. Do truly and sincerely profess, testifie and declare in my Conscience before God and the World, that our Soveraign Lord, King James, is Lawful and Rightful King of this Realm, and of all his Majesty's Dominións and Countries: And that the Pope, neither of himself, nor by any authority of the Church or See of Rome, or by any other means, with any other, hath any power or authority to depose the King, or to dispose any of his Majesty's Kingdoms or Dominions, or to Authorize any Foreign Prince to invade or annoy him, or his Countries, or to discharge any of his Subjects of their Allegiance or Obedience to his Majesty, or to give licence or leave to any of them to bear arms, raise tumults, or to offer any violence or hurt to his Majesty's Royal Person, State or Government, or to ary of his Majesty's Subjects within his Majesty's Dominion's.

Also

Also I do swear from my heart, that notwithstanding any Declaration or Sentence of Excommunication, or deprivation made or granted, or to be made or granted by the Pope or his Successors, or by any Authority derived or pretended to be derived from him or his See, against the said King, his Heirs and Successors, or any absolution of the said Subjects from their Obedience, I will bear Faith and true Alegiance to his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, and him and them will defend to the Ustermost of my power against all Conspiracies and attempts what soever, which shall be made against his or their Persons, their Crown and Dignity, by reason or colour of any such Sentence or Declaration, or otherwise, and will do my best endeavour to disclose and make known unto his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, All Treasons and Traiterous Conspiracies, which I shall know or hear of to be against him, or any of them.

And I do further Swear, that I do from my heart abhor and detest and abjure, as impious and heretical, this damnable Doctrine and position, That Princes, which be Excommunicated or deprived by the Pope, may be deposed or murthered by their Subjects, or any other whatsoever.

And I do believe; and in Conscience am perswaded, that neither the Pope nor any Person whatsoever, bath Power to absolve me of this Oath, or any part thereof, which I acknowledge by good and Lawful authority to be Lawfully administred unto me, and I do renounce all Pardons and Dispensations to the contrary. And all these things I do plainly and sincerely acknowledge and swear, according to these express words by me spoken, and according to the plain and common sense and understanding of the same words, without any Equivocation, or mental Evasion, or secret reservation whatsoever. And I do make this Recognition and acknowledgement heartily, willingly and truly, upon the true Faith of a Christian. So help me God.

And the Statute of 7 Jacobi Cap. 6. Recites, that Whereas by a Statute made in the third year of the faid King's Reign, the form of an Oath to be ministred and given

to certain persons in the same Act mentioned, is limitted and prescribed, tending only to the declaration of such duty, as every true and well affected Subject, not only by bond of Allegiance, but also by the Commandment of Almighty God, ought to bear to the King, his Heirs and Successors; Which Oath such are infected with Popish Superstition do oppugne with many false and unsound Arguments, the just defence whereof the King had therefore undertaken and worthily performed, to the great contentment of all his Subjects, notwithstanding the gainsayings of contentious Adversaries. And to shew how greatly the King's Loyal Subjects do approve the said Oath, they beseech his Majesty, that the said Oath be administred to all his Subjects.

The Pope, and Authority of the See of Rome run through the first Paragraph; Notwithstanding any Declaration, or Sentence of Excommunication, &c. Governs the second Paragraph: Excommunicated and deprived the Pope are the material words in the third Paragraph. The fourth is added in Majorem cautelam, in opposition to the Popish Doctrine of Dispensing with Oaths, Absolving Subjects from their Allegiance, Equivocations, Mental Evasions, &c.

So that as the Oath of Supremacy did but enforce the Ancient Oath of Fealty, with an acknowledgement of the Queen's supreme Authority in Ecclesiastical Causes and things, as well as Temporal, and a renunciation of all Foreign Jurisdictions; so the Oath of Allegiance does but enforce the same Old Oath of Fealty, by obliging the Subjects of England expressly to disowne any Lawful Authority in the Pope or See of Rome to Depose, invade or annoy the King, his Dominions or Subjects. And notwithstanding any Sentence of Excommunication, Deprivation, &c. by the Pope, &c. to bear Faith and true Allegiance to the King, his Heirs and Lawful Successors; And to Abjure that Position, that it is Lawful to Depose Princes that are Excommunicated or Deprived by the Pope.

Whatever is added, is either Oath over and above what was exprest in the Old Oath of Fealty, is but as Explanatory of it, and Branching it out into such particulars, as time and occasion required.

So that the Oaths of Supremacy and Allegiance not having altered the Terms of Allegiance, due from the People of England to their Princes, if their Princes by ancient Laws of the Realm, and by the practice of our Forefathers, were liable to be Deposed by the great Councils of the Nation, for maleadministration, Oppressions, and other Exorbitancies, for not keeping their Coronation Oaths, for Insufficiency to Govern, &c. then they continue still liable to be deposed in like manner, the said Oaths, or any obligation contracted thereby, notwithstanding.

For the Practice of Former times, I shall begin with a very Antient President in the Kingdom of the West-Saxons. (viz.)

Cudred King of West-Saxony being dead, Sigebert his Kinsman Succeeded him in that Kingdom, & held it but a small time; for being pust up with Pride by the Successes of King Cudred his Predecessor, he grew insolent, and became intolerable to his People. And when he evil entreated them all manner of ways,

Cudredo Rege West-Saxiæ defuncto, Sigebertus Cognatus ejus sibi in eodem Regno successit; brevi tamen tempore Regnum tenens, nam ex Cudredi Regis Precessoris sui eventibus tume factus, & Insolens Intolerabilis suis suit cum autem

and either wrested the Laws for his own ends, or eluded them for his own advantage; Cumbra one of his chief Officers, at the request of the whole People, intimated their Complaints to the Savage King. And because he perfwaded the King to govern his People more mildly, and that laying afide his barbarity, he would endeavour to appear acceptable to God and man; the King immediately Commanded him to be put to death, and encreasing his Tyranny, became more cruel and intolerable than before: whereupon in the beginning of the Second year of his Reign, because he was arriv'd to an incorrigible pitch of Pride and Wickedness, the NOBLES and the PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE KING-DOM Assembled together, and upon MATURE DE-LIBERATION, did by UNANIMOUS CON-SENT OF THEM ALL, drive him out of the King-

eos modis omnibus male traffaret, legesque vel ad commodum suum depravaret; vel pro commodo suo devitaret, Cumbra Consul ejus Nobilissimus prece totius populi Rezi fero eorum querimonias intimavit. Et quia ipse Regi suaserat, ut leniùs Populum suum Regeret, & inhumanitate deposità Deo & hominibus amabilis appareret, Rex eum impià nece mox interfici jubens, populo savior & intolerabilior quam prius suam tyrannidem augmentavit, unde in principio secundi Anni Regni sui cum incorrigibilis superbiæ & nequitiæ esset, Congregati sunt PROCERES: & POPU-LUS totius REGNI & eum PROVIDA DELI-BERATIONE a Regno U-NANIMI CONSENSU OMNIUM expellebant. Cudom. In whose stead they Chose Kenwelph an Excellent Youth, and of the Royal Blood, to be King over the People and Kingdom of the West-Saxons. Collect. p. 769, 770. ibid. p. 795, 796.

jus Loco Kenwolfum Juvenem egregium de Regia stipe oriundum, in Regem Super Populum & Regnum West-Saxix elegerunt. Collect. 769, 770. ibidem, p. 795, 796.

This Deposition of King Sigebert appears to have been done in a formal and orderly manner; viz. in a Convention of the Process and the Populus totius Regni; and it was done provida deliberatione & unanimi Omnium Consensu, and consequently was not an Act of Heat, Rebellion, or Tumultuary Insurrection of the People; But was what the whole Nation apprehended to be Legal, Just, and according to the Constitution of their Government, and no breach of their Oaths of Allegiance.

Nor have we any reason to wonder that the English Nation should free themselves in such a manner from Oppression, if we consider that by an Ancient Positive Law Enacted in K. Edw. the Conf. time, and confirmed by William the Conqueror, the Kings of England are liable to be deposed, if they turn Tyrants.

B 2

The King, because he is the Vicar of the Supreme King, is constituted to this end and purpose, that he may govern his Earthly Kingdom and the People of: the Lord, and especially to Govern and Reverence God's Holy Church, and defend it from injuries, and root out, destroy, and wholly to extirpate all wrongdoers. Which if he do not perform, HE SHALL NOT RETAIN SO MUCH AS THE NAME OF A KING. And a little after; The King must Act all things according to Law, and by the Judgment of the Proceres Regni. For Right and Justice ought to Reignain the Realmarather than a perverse Will. It is the Law that makes Right; But Wilfulness, Vio-

Rex autem, quia Vicarius summi Regis est, ad boc. est constitutus; ut Regnum terrenum & Populum Domini; & super omnia sanctam veneretur Ecclesiam ejus & regat, & ab injuriosis defendat, & maleficos ab ea evellat & destruat, & penitus disper. Quod nist. fecerit, nec nomen Regis in eo constabit. Et paulo post; Debet Rex omnia ritè facere in Regno, & per Judicium Procerum Regni. De-: bet enim Jus & Justitia magis regnare in Regno, quamvoluntas prava. Lex est semper quod Jus facit, voluntas autem, Violentia & Vis. non est Jus. Debet verò Rex. Deum timere super omnia & diligere, & mandata ejus, per totum Regnum Suum Servare. Debet etiam sanctam Ecclesiam Regni sui cum omlence

lence and Force is not Right. The King ought above all things to fear and love God, and to keep his Commandments throughout his Kingdom. He ought also to preserve, to cherish, maintain, govern and defend against its Adversaries, The Church within his Kingdom entirely and in all freedom, according to the Constitutions of the Fathers and of his Predecesfors, that God may be honoured above all things, and always be had before men eyes. He ought also to fet up good Laws and approv'd Customs, and to abolish evil ones, and put them away in his Kingdom. He ought to do right Judgment in his Kingdom and maintain Justice by Advice of the Proceres Re-

ni integritate & libertate juxta Constitutiones Patrum & Prædecessorum servare, fovere, manutenere, regere, & contra inimicos defendere, ita ut Deus præ cæteris. honoretur, & præ oculis semper habeatur. Debet etiam bonas Leges & Consuetudines approbatas erigere, pravas autem delère, & omnes à Regno deponere. Debet Judicium Rectum in Regno suo facere, & Justitiam per Confilium Procerum Regni sui tenere. Ista verò debet omnia Rex in propria persona, inspectis & tactis sacrosanttis Evingeliis, &

gni sui. All these things the King, in proper Person, looking upon and touching the Holy Gospels, and upon the Holy and Sacred Reliques, must swear in the Presence of his People and Clergy to do, before he be crown'd by the Archbishops and Bishops of the Kingdom. Lamb of the Ancient Laws of England, pag. 142.

Super sacras & sanctas reliquias coram Regno & Sacerdotio & Clero jurare antequam ab Archiepiscopis &
Episcopis Regni Coronetur.
Lamb. de Priscis Anglorum Legibus, p. 142.

Another instance of the Deposition of a King of England, subsequent to this Law, we find in King John's time, whose Oppressions and Tyrannical Government our Histories are full of. Of which take this following Account out of a very Ancient Historian.

Whereas the faid John had fworn folemnly at his Coronation, as the manner is, that he would preserve the Rights and Usages of the Church and Realm of

cum præfatus Johannes in Coronatione suâ solennitèr prout moris est Jurasset, se Jura & Consuetudines Ecclesiæ & Regni Angliæ conservaturum, contra juramen England,

England, yet contrary to his Oath, he subjected, as far as in him lay, the Kingalways been free, and made it tributary to the Pope, without the Advice and Consent of his Barons; subverting good Customs, and introducing evil ones, endeavouring by many oppreffions, and many ways to enslave both the Church and the Realm, which oppresfions you know better than I, as having felt them by manifold Experience. For which Causes, when after many applications made, War was waged against him by his Barons, at last, amongst other things it was agreed, with his express consent, that in case the said John should return to his former Villanies, the Barons should be

tum suum absque confilio vel consensu Baronum suorum idem Regnum, quod semper dom of England, which has fuit Liberum, quantum in ipso fuit, Domino Pape Subjecit, & fecit tributarium, bonas consuetudines subvertens, malas inducens, tam Ecclesiam quam Regnum multes oppressionibus multesqui modes studens ancellare, quas oppressiones was melius no-Stis, quam nos, ut qui eas Familiari sensestis Experimento. Pro quibus, cum post multas requisitiones guerra mota eset contra ipsum a Baronibus suis, tandem inter cætera de ejus expreso consensu it a convenit, ut si idem Johannes ad flagitia prima rediret, ipse Barones ab ejus Fidelitate recederent, nunquam ad eum post modam reversuri. Verum ipse nihilominus paucis diebus Evoluat

at Liberty to recede from their Allegiance to him, never to return to him more. But he, after a few days, made his latter end worse than his beginning, endeavouring not only to oppress his Barons, but wholly to exterminate them; who therefore in a GENERAL ASSEMBLY and with the APPROBATION of ALL THE REALM, adjudging him unworthy to be King, CHOSE Us for their Lord and King. Collect. p. 1868, 1869. Chron. W. Thorn.

tis, fecit novissima sua pejora prioribus, studens Barones suos non tantum opprimere, sed potius penitus
exterminare. Qui DE
COMMUNI REGNI
CONSILIO & APPROBATIONE ipsum
Regno Judicantes indignum,
nos in Regem & Dominum
Elegerunt. Collect. 1868,
1869: Chron. W. Thorn:
Lewis his Letter to the
Abbot of St. Austins, Canterbury.

The next Instance shall be that of King Edward the Second: the Record of whose Deposition, if it were extant, would probably disclose all the legal Formalities that were then accounted proper for the deposing an Unjust, Oppressive King: But they were cancelled and imbezled (as is highly probable from Rastal's Stat. pag. 170, 171. compar'd with the Articles exhibited in Parliament against King Richard the Second', of which hereafter) in King Richard the Second's time, and by his Order: Yet the Articles themselves are preserv'd in the Collect. And are as followeth; viz.

Accorde

Accorde est que Sire Edward Fitz aisne du Roy ait le Goverment du Royalme & soit Roy Couronne, pur les causes que s' ensuent.

1. Pur ceo que la person le Roy n' est pas suffisant de Governer. Car en tout son temps il ad estre mene & governe per auters que ly ont mavaisement conseillez, à deshonour de ly & destruction de Saint Esglise, & de tout son People sanz ceo que il le vousist veer ou conuster lequel il sust bon ou mauvays ou remedie mettre, ou faire le vousist quant il suit requis par les Grants & sages de son Royalme, ou souffrir que amende suist faite.

2. Item, Par fon temps il ne se voloit doner à bon Counsel, ne le croire, ne à bon Government de son Royalme, mes se ad done tous Jours as ouvrages & occupations nient convenables, enterlessant l'esploit des besoignes de son Royalme.

3. Item, Par defaut de bon goverment ad il perdu le Royalme d'Escoce & auters terres & seigneuries en Gascoyne & Hyrland, les queux son Pere le leisa en pees & amiste du Roy de France, & dets mults des auters Grants. It is accorded that Prince Edward, the King's eldest Son, shall have the Government of the Kingdom, and be crowned King for the Causes following.

I. For that the person of the King is insufficient to govern: for that during his whole Reign he has been led and governed by others, who have given him Evil Counsel, to his Dishonour and the destruction of Holy Church, and of all his People; he being unwilling to consider or know what was good or evil, or to provide remedy even when it was required of him by the Great and Wise Men of his Realm, or suffer any to be made.

2. Also, during all his time, he would neither hearken to, nor believe good Counsel, nor apply himself to the good Government of his Realm, but hath always given himself over to Things and Occupations altogether inconvenient, omitting in the mean time the necessary Affairs and business of the Kingdom.

3. Also, For want of good government, he hath lost the Kingdom of Scotland, and other Lands and Territories in Gascoyn and Ireland, which his Father lest him in peace and friendship with the French King,

D 4. Item,

4. Item, Par sa fierte & qualte & par mauvays Counsel ad il destruit Saint Esglise, & les persons de Saint Esglise tenus en prison les uns: & les auters en distresce, & auxynt plusers grants & nobles de sa terre mys à honteuse mort, enprisones, exulets & desheritez.

5. Item, Là ou il est tenus par son serment à faire droit à toute il ne l'ad pas volu faire, pur son propre proffit & covetise de ly, & de ces maveis consuilires, que ount este pres de ly, Ne ad garde les auters points del serment qu'il fist à son Coronement, si come il fuest tenus.

6. Item, Il deguerpift son Royalme & fift tant come en ly sust que son Royalme & son People sust perduz, & que pys est, pur la cruaute de ly & defaute de sa personne il est trove incorrigible saunz esperance de amendment, les queux choses sont si notoires, qu'ils ne pount este desdits.

For these Causes, De Consilio & Assensu omnium Pralatorum, Comitum & Baronum & totius Communitatis Regni Amotus est à Regimine Regni. [Apolog. Ade de Orleton, Collect. p. 2765, 2766.]

and with many other Grandees.

4. Also, By his Pride and Arrogance and Evil Counsel, he hath destroyed Holy Church; imprisoning some persons thereof, and put others in distress. And also he hath put to a shameful death, imprisoned and disinherited many of the Great Men, and Nobles of the Land.

5. Also, Whereas he is bound by his Oath to administer Justice to all, he would not do it, through his own Covetousness, and that of Evil Counsellors, that were about him; neither hath he kept the other Points of the Oath, which he took at his Coronation, as he was bound.

6. Also, He hath wasted his Kingdom, and did what in him lay, that his Realm and People should be destroy'd; and, which is worse, by his Cruelty and personal Failings or Desects he is found to be incorrigible, and past all hopes of amendment. All which things are so notorious, that they cannot be denied.

For these Causes, by Advice and Assent of all the Prelates, Earls and Barons, and of the whole Commonalty of the Kingdom, he was deposed from the Government. [Apology of Adam de Orleton, Collect. p.2765, 2766.]

These

These Proceedings against King Edward the Second are no-where extant but in that Author. Which is the less to be wondred at, if we consider, that in King Richard the Second's time the King's Parasitical Court-savourites so influenced the Judges; That to the Question, How he was to be punished, that moved in the Parliament, that the Statute should be sent for, whereby Edward, the Son of King Edward, was another time endited in the Parliament; They answered, That as well he that moved, as the other who by force of the same motion brought the said Statute into the Parliament House, be as criminous and Traytors worthy to be punished. V. Rastall's Statutes, 170, 171. (The for that and other Extravagant, Pernicious and Treasonable Opinions delivered, those Judges were severely punished, as is notoriously known.) And also, That it was afterwards one Article of Impeachment against King Richard the Second, That he had cancelled and razèd sundry Records.

In King Richard the Second's time many Animofities arose from time to time betwixt him and his Parliaments; Insomuch, that in the 11th year of his Reign, the Parliament then sitting at London, the King absented himself from them, and stayed at Eltham, resusing to come at them, and join with them in the Publick Affairs: upon which occasion the Lords and Commons sent Messengers to him with an Address; which the Historian H. Knighton sets forth at large, and which I will here give the Reader a transcript of at large, because it will afford many useful Inferences and Obser-

vations.

Salubri igitur usi consilio miserunt, de Communi Assensu totius Parliamenti Dominum Thomam de Wodestoke, Ducem
Glocestrie, & Thomam de Arundell, Episcopum Elyensem;
ad Regem apud Eltham, qui salutarent eum ex parte Procerum &
Communium Parliamenti sui, sub
tali sensu verborum ei referentes
vota eorum.

Wherefore taking wholsome Advice, they sent by common Assent of the whole Parliament, the Lord Thomas de Woodstock, Duke of Glocester, and Thomas de Arundell Bishop of Ely, to the King, to Elhanr, to salute him on behalf of the Lords and Commons of his Parliament, who express'd their Desires to the King to this effect.

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Domine

Domine Rex, Proceres & Domini atque totus populus communitatis Parliamenti vestri, cum humilima subjectione se commendant Excellentissimo Regalis Dignitatis vestræ, cupientes prosperumiter invincibilis bonoris vestri contra inimicorum potentiam, & validissimum vinculum pacis & dilectionis cordis vestri erga subditos vestros, in augmentum commodi vestri, erga Deum, & Salutem anima vestra, & ad inedicibilem consolationem totius populi vestri quem regitis: Ex quorum parte bec vobis intimamus, Quod ex antiquo Statuto habemus, & Consuetudine laudabili & approbata, cujus contrarietati dici non valebit, quod Rex noster convocare potest Dominos & Proceres Regni atque Communes semel in anno ad Parliamentum suum, tanguam ad summam curiam totius Regni, in quâ omnis aquitus relucere deberet absque qualibet scrupulositate vel nota, tanquam Sol in ascensu meridiei, ubi pauperes & divites pro refrigerio tranquillitatis & pacis, & repulsione injuriarum refugium infallibile quærere possent, ac etiam errata Regni reformare, & de Statu & Gubernatione Regis & Regni cum sapientiori confilio tractare, & ut inimici Regis & Regni intrinseci & hostes extrinseci destruantur & repellantur, quomodo convenientius & bonorificentius fieri poterit cum salubri tractatu in eo disponere & pra-

Sir, The Lords, and all the Commons of your Parliament, have themselves commended to your most Excellent Majesty, desiring the success of your Invincible Honour against the Power of your Enemies, and a most firm bond of Peace and Love in your heart towards your Subjects, for your Good Godwards, and the Good of your Soul, and to the unspeakable comfort of all your People whom you govern: On whose behalf we intimate these things to you; That it appears to us by an ancient Statute, and by landable and approved Usage, which cannot be demid, that our King can call together the Peers of the Realm and the Commons once a year to his Parliament, as to the fupreme Court of the whole Kingdom, in which all Right & Justice ought to shine forth without any doubt or stain, as the Sun at Noon-day, where Poor and Rich may find an infallible Refuge, to enjoy the refreshments of Tranquility and Peace, and for repelling of Injuries; where also Errors in Government are to be reformed. and the State and Government of King and Kingdom treated upon by sage Advice, and the defiroging and repelling of both intestine and foreign Enemies to the King and Kingdom, with most Convenience and Honour, videre.

videre; qualiter quaque onera incumbentia Regi & Regno levius ad ediam communitatis supportari poterunt. Videtur etiam iis, quod ex quo onera supportant incumbentia, babent etiam supervidere qualiter & per quos eorum bona & catalla expendantur. Dicunt etiam, quod habent ex Antiquo Statuto, quod si Rex à Parliamento suo se alienaverit sua sponte, non aliquà infirmitate, aut aliquà alià de causà necessitatis, sed per immoderatam voluntatem proterve se subtraxerit per absentiam temporis quadraginta dierum, tanquam de vexatione populi sui & gravibus eorum expensis non curans, extunc licitum omnibus & singulis sorum absque domigerio Regis redire ad propria, & unicuique eorum in patriam suam remeare: Et jam vos ex longiore tempore absentâstis, & quâ de caus à nesciunt, venire renuistis. Ad hæc Rex, Jam plane consideramus, quod populus noster atque communes intendunt resistere, atque contra nos insurgere moliuntur; & in tali infestatione melius nobis non videtur, quin cognatum nostrum Regem Franciæ,

& ab eo confilium & auxilium petere contra insidiantes, & nos ei submittere potius quam succumbere subditis nostris. Ad hæc illi responderunt, Non est hoc vobis sanum consilium, sed magis ducens ad inevitabile detrimentum; nam Rex Francia capitalis ini-

may be debated upon, and provided for; as also in what manner the Charges incumbent upon the King and Kingdom may be born with most ease to the Commonalty. They conceive likewise, that since they bear the incumbent Charges, it concerns them to inspect how and by whom their Goods and Chattels are expended. They fay also, that it appears to them by an ancient Statute, that if the King abfent himself from his Parliament voluntarily, not by reason of fickness, or for any other necessary cause, but through an inordinate will, shall wantonly absent himself by the space of forty days, as not regarding the vexation of his People, and their great Expences, it shall then be lawful to all and fingular of them to return to their own homes without the King's leave: And you have now been longer absent, and have refused to come to them, for what cause they know not. Then said the King, I now plainly fee that my People and the Commons defign to oppose me with force, and are about to make an Insurrection against me: And if I be so infested, I think the best course I can take will be to

my Cousin the King of France, and ank his Advice, and pray in Aid of him against those that way-lay me,

micus

micus vester est, & Regni vestri adversarius permaximus; & si in terram Regni vestri pedem figeret potius, vos spoliare laboraret & Regnum vettrum invadere, vosque à sublimitate Regalis solii expellere, quam vobis aliquatenus manus adjutrices cum favore apponere; fi, quod ablit, ejus suffragio quandoque indigeretis. Ad memoriam igitur revocetis, qualiter avus vester Edwardus tertius Rex, & similiter pater Edwardus Princeps nomine ejus in sudore & angustiis in omni tempore suo per innumerabiles labores in frigore & calore certaverunt indefesse pro conquisitione Regni Franciæ, quod eis jure bæreditario attinebat, & vobis per successionem post eos. Reminiscamini quoque qualiter Domini Regni & Proceres atque Communes innumerabiles tam de Regno Angliæ quam Franciæ, Reges quoque & Domini de aliis Regnis atque populi innumerabiles in Guerra-illa mortem & mortis periculum sustinuerunt, bona quoque & catalla inestimabilia & the-Sauros innumerabiles pro sustentatione hujus Guerræ, Communes Regni bujus indefesse effuderunt. Et quod gravins dolendum est, jam in diebus vestris tanta onera iis imposita pro Guerris vestris sustinendis, supportaverunt, quod ad tantam pauperiem incredibilem deducti sunt, quod nec reditus suos pro suis tenementis solvere possunt, nec Regi subvenire, nec

and rather to submit my self to Him, than be foil'd by my own Subjects. To which they reply'd; That Counsel is not for your good, but will inevitably tend to your ruine ; for the: King of France is your capital Enemy, and the greatest Adversary that your Kingdom has; and if he should fet his foot within your Kingdom, he would rather endeavour to prey upon you, and invade your Realm, and to depose you from your Royal Dignity, than afford you any Affiftance, if, which God forbid, you should stand in need of bis belp. Call to mind therefore, how your Grandfather King Edward III. and your Father Prince Edward for him, fought indefatigably in fweat and forrow all their days, and went through innumerable hardships of cold and heat, to acquire the Kingdom of France, which by hereditary Right appertain'd to Them, and does now to You by Succession after them. Remember likewise, how innumerable Lords and Commons of both Realms, and Kings and Gentlemen of other Kingdoms, and People innumerable, perished, or hazarded perishing, in that War; and that the Commons of this Realm pour'd out Goods of inestimable value, and innumerable Sums of Money, for the carrying on of that same War; and, which is more to be lamented.

vitæ necessaria sibi ipsis ministrare, & depauperatur Regia Potestas, & Dominorum Regni, & magnatum infelicitas adducitur, atque totius populi debilitas. Nam Rex depauperari nequit, qui divitem habet populum; nec dives esse potest, qui pauperes babet communes. Et mala hac omnia redundant non solum Regi, sed & omnibus & Singulis Dominis & Proceribus Regni, unicuique in suo gradu. Et hæc omnia eveniunt per iniquos ministros Regis, qui male gubernaverunt Regent & Regnum usque in præsens. Et nist manus citins apponamus adjutrices, & remedii fulcimentum adhibeamus, Regnum Angliæ dolorose attenuabitur tempore, quo minus opinamur. Sed . O unum aliud de nuncio nostro superest nobis ex parte populi vestri vobis intimare. Habent enim EX ANTIQUO STATUTO, & de facto non longe retroactis temporibus experienter quod dolendum est babito, si Rex, EX MALIGNO CONSILIO QUOCUN-QUE, vel INEPTA CON-TUMACIA, aut CON-TEMPTU, sen PROTER--VA VOLUNTATE SIN-GULARI, aut QUOVIS MODO IRREGULARI, se alienaveris à populo suo, nec volucrit per Jura Regni & Statuta ac landabiles Ordinationes cum salubri consilio Dominorum & Procerum

ted, they have now in your days undergone fuch heavy Taxes towards the maintaining of your Wars, that they are reduced to fuch incredible poverty, that they cannot so much as pay their rents for their Farms, nor aid the King, nor afford themselves necessaries; and the King himself is impoverish'd, and the Lords become uneasie, and all the People faint; for a King cannot become poor, that has a rich People; nor can he be rich, whose People are poor. And all these mischiefs redound not to the King only, but also to all and singular the Peers of the Realm, in proportion: And all these mischiefs happen by means of the King's Evil Ministers, who have hitherto misgovern'd both the King & Kingdom; and if some course be not taken, the Kingdom of England will be miserably diminish'd sooner than we are aware. But there remains yet another part of our Message, which we have to impart to you on the behalf of your People. They find in an ancient Statute, and it has been done in fact not long ago, That if the King, through any Evil Counsel, or foolish Contumacy, or out of fcorn, or some singular petulant Will of his own, or by any other irregular means, shall alienate himself from his People,

Regni Gubernari & Regulari, sed capitose in suis insanis consiliis propriam voluntatem suam singularem proterve exercere, extunc licitum est iis, cum communi assensu & consensu Populi Regni ipsum REGEM DEREGALISOLIO ABROGARE, & propinquiorem aliquem de stirpe Regia loco ejus in Regni solio sublimare. H Knighton, Coll. 2681.

People, and shall refuse to be govern'd and guided by the Laws of the Realm, and the Statutes and laudable Ordinances thereof, together with the wholsom Advice of the Lords and Great Men of his Realm, but persisting headstrong in his own hare-brain'd Counsels, shall petulantly profecute his own singular humour, That then it shall be lawful for them, with the common assent and

consent of the People of the Realm, to depose that same King from his Regal Throne, and to set up some other of the Royal Blood in his room.

H. Knighton, Coll. 2681.

No man can imagine that the Lords and Commons in Parliament would have fent the King such a Message, and have quoted to him an Old Statute for deposing Kings that would not govern according to Law, if the People of England had then apprehended that an obedience without reserve was due to the King, or if there had not been such a Statute in being. And tho the Record of that Excellent Law be lost, as the Records of almost all our Ancient Laws are; yet is the Testimony of so Credible an Historian, who lived when these things were transacted, sufficient to inform us, that such a Law was then known and in being, and consequently that the terms of English Allegiance, according to the Constitution of our Government, are different from what some Modern Authors would perswade us they are.

This difference betwixt the faid King and his Parliament ended amicably betwixt them, in the punishment of many Evil Counsellors, by whom the King had been influenced to commit many Irre-

gularities in Government.

But the Discontents of the People grew higher by his After-management of Affairs, and ended in the Deposition of that King, and fetting up of another, who was not the next Heir in lineal Succession.

The Articles against King Richard the Second may be read at large in H. Knyghton, Collect 2746, 2747, &c. and are yet extant upon Records. An Abridgment of them is in Cotton's Records, pag. 386, 387, 388. out of whom I observe these sew, there being in all Thirty Three.

The First was, His wasting and bestowing the Lands of the Crown upon Unworthy Persons, and overcharging the Commons with Exactions. And that whereas certain Lords Spiritual and Temporal were assigned in Parliament to intend the Government of the Kingdom, the King by a Conventicle of his own Accomplices endeavoured to impeach them of High-Treason.

Another was, For that the King by undue means procured divers Justices to speak against the Law, to the destruction of the Duke of Glocester, and the Earls of Arundel and Warwick at Shrewsbury.

Another, For that the King against his own Promise and Pardon at a solemn Procession, apprehended the Duke of Glocester, and sent him to Calice, there to be choked and murthered, beheading the Earl of Arundel, and banishing the Earl of Warwick, and the Lord Cobham.

Another, For that the King's Retinue, and a Rout gathered by him out of Cheshire, committed divers Murthers, Rapes, and other Felonies, and refused to pay for their Victuals.

Another.

Another, For that the Crown of England being freed from the Pope, and all other Foreign Power, the King notwithstanding procured the Pope's Encommunication on such as should break the Ordinances of the last Parliament, in derogation of the Crown, Statutes and Laws of the Realm.

Another, That he made Men Sheriffs, who were not named to him by the Great Officers, the Justices and others of his Council; and who were unfit, contrary to the Laws of the Realm, and in manifest breach of his Oath.

Another, For that he did not repay to his Subjects the debts, that he had borrowed of them.

Another, For that the King refused to execute the Laws, saying. That the Laws were in his mouth and breast, and that bimself alone could make and alter the Laws.

Another, For causing Sheriffs to continue in Office above a year contrary to the tenor of a Statute-Law, thereby incurring notarious Recipity

Another, For that the said King procured Knights of the Shires to be returned to serve his own Will.

Another For that many Justices, for their good Counsel given to the King, were with Evil Countenance and Threats rewarded.

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Another, For that the King passing into Ireland, had carried with him, without the Consent of the Estates of the Realm, the Treasure, Reliques, and other Jewels of the Realm, which were used safely to be kept in the King's own Coffers from all hazard; And for that the said King cancelled and razed sundry Records.

Another, For that the said King appear d by his Letters to the Pope; to Foreign Princes, and to his Subjects, so walriable, so dissembling, and so unfaithful and inconstant, that no man could trust him, that knew him; insomuch, that he was a Scandal both to himself and the Kingdom.

Another, That the King would commonly say among state. Nobles, that all Subjects Lives, Lands and Goods were in his hands without any forfeiture; which is altogether contrary to the Laws and Usages of the Realm.

Another, For that he suffered his Subjects to be condemned by Martial-law, contrary to his Oath, and the Laws of the Realm:

Another, For that whereas the Subjects of England are sufficiently bound to the King by their Allegiance, yet the said King compell d them to take new Oaths.

These Articles, with some others, not altogether of so general a concern, being considered, and the King himself confessing his Defects, the same seemed sufficient to the whole Estates for the King's Deposition, and he was depos'd accordingly.

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The substance and drift of all is, That our Kings were anciently liable to, and might lawfully be deposed for Oppression and Tyranny, for Insussiciency to govern, &c. in and by the Great Council of the Nation, without any breach of the Old Oath of Fealty, Because (to say nothing of the nature of our Constitution) Express and Positive Laws warranted such Proceedings: And therefore, the Frame of Our Government being the same still, and the Terms of Our Allegiance being the same now, that they were then, without any new Obligations superinduced by the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, a King of England may legally at this day, for sufficient cause, be deposed by the Lords and Commons assembled in a Great Council of the Kingdom, without any breach of the Present Oaths of Supremacy or Allegiance. Quod erat demonstrandum.

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MANTISSA

Hen Stephen was King of England, whom the People had chosen ra-ther than submit to Mand, tho the Great Men of the Realm had sworn Fealty to her in her Father's life-time, Henry Duke of Anjoy, Son of the said Mand, afterwards King Henry the Second, invaded the Kingdom Anno Dom: 1153, which was towards the latter-end of King Stephen's Reign; and Theobald Archbishop of Canterbury endeavoured to mediate a Peace betwixt them, speaking frequently with the King in private, and fending many Messages to the Duke; and Henry Bishop of Winchester took pains likewise to make them Friends. Fastum est autem, Collect, pa. 1374, ut mense Novembris, in fine mens, EX PRÆCEPTO RE-

GISET DUCIS, convenirent apud Wintoniam Præsules & Principes Regni, ut & ipst jam initæ paci præberent assensum, & unanimiter juramenti sacramento consirmarent, i. e. It came to pass, that in the month of November, towards the latter-end of the month, AT

THE SUMMONS OF THE KING AND OF THE DUKE, the Prelates and Great Men of the Kingdom were Assembled at Winchester, that they also might assent to the Peace that was concluded, and unanimously swear to observe it.

In that Parliament the Duke was declared King Stephen's adopted Son, and Heir of the Kingdom, and the King to retain the Govern-

ment during his Life.

I observe only upon this Authority, That there being a Controversie betwixt the King and the Duke, which could no otherwise be determined and settled but in a Parliament, the Summons of this Parliament were issued in the Names of both Parties concerned.

Quisquis habet aures ad audiendum, audiat.

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HE Author of this Treatife having been very averse to the taking of the Oaths, and resolved to have suffered the utmost Extremity for the refusal, applied himself to the most deliberate consideration of the necessity or convenience of giving the Government such security, as might in justice be expected from him to his Superiors; and being convinc'd by the Authority and Reasonings of the great Bishop Sanderson, hath been inclined to think, that what pe. Swaded him, might also perswade others, and therefore hath sent this Treatise into the World.







